

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A method of locally decreasing the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 in an animal, said method comprising the step of introducing into an animal a ~~structure comprising~~ medical device adapted to be affixed to, or implanted within, soft tissue of an animal, wherein the medical device comprises antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecules that ~~each hybridize under stringent conditions to~~ consist of the complement of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecules are present in an amount effective to decrease the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 at the location of the medical device in the animal.

29-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[31]]~~ 28 wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a vascular graft, a vascular stent, an artificial blood vessel, an artificial bone joint, a biosensor, and a percutaneous device.

33-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein the animal is a mammal.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein the animal is a human being.